

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
Harford Street/E. Hawthorne Road Survey District (CH: 545)  
400 block of Harford Street  
300 block of East Hawthorne Road  
Charles County, Maryland

Situated to the east of Washington Avenue, near U.S. 301 and the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, the survey district is located along the 400 block of Harford Street and the 300 block of East Hawthorne Road in the town of La Plata. These houses reflect patterns of development that characterized southern Maryland during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and also stylistic trends in domestic architecture during the period.

The houses at the 400 block of Harford Street and the 300 block of E. Hawthorne Drive are located in a residential area that was developed during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, near the town of La Plata. This middle-class neighborhood features medium lot sizes with modest-sized single family dwellings, mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings around the houses, paved roads, and gravel or asphalt driveways. Four of the six houses in this survey group represent one of the most prevalent house types in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular residential design: the Cape Cod house. The Cape Cod house was derived from small English Colonial dwellings. The Cape Cod houses in this survey group are vernacular derivatives of the colonial house form, but feature few, if any, of the stylistic elements of their colonial antecedents. The other two houses in the survey group are modest, one-story dwellings with little to no stylistic detailing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH: 545

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
common/other name Harford Street/E. Hawthorne Drive Survey District

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 400, 401, 402, 403 Harford Street; 306, 307 E. Hawthorne Drive not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town La Plata vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Charles code 17 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No ☒

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne Drive  
Survey District  
Charles County, Maryland

Inventory No. CH: 545  
Page 2

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival  
Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid  
Roof Gable: Asphalt Shingle  
Walls Wood Frame: Vinyl Siding; Asbestos Shingle  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne Drive  
Survey District  
Charles County, Maryland

Inventory No. CH: 545  
Page 3

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne Drive  
Survey District  
Charles County, Maryland

Inventory No. CH: 545  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne Drive  
Survey District  
Charles County, Maryland

Inventory No. CH: 545  
Page 5

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The properties at 400, 402, 401, and 403 Harford Street are designated as Parcels 5, 4, 59, and 60, Grid 7 as indicated on Map 109.

The properties at 306 and 307 E. Hawthorne Drive are designated as Parcels 11 and 17, Grid 13 as indicated on Map 109.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The properties at the 400 block of Harford Street and the 300 block of E. Hawthorne Drive have historically been associated with Parcels 4, 5, 59, 60, 11, and 17 since the buildings' construction in the second and third quarters of the twentieth century.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 16, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state MD zip code \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 545

Section 7 Page 1

Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne  
Drive Survey District  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

=====

The houses at the 400 block of Harford Street and the 300 block of E. Hawthorne Drive are located in a residential area that was developed during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, near the town of La Plata.

This middle-class neighborhood features medium lot sizes with modest-sized single family dwellings, mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings around the houses, paved roads, and gravel or asphalt driveways. Four of the six houses in this survey group represent one of the most prevalent house types in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular residential design: the Cape Cod house. The Cape Cod house was derived from small English Colonial dwellings. The Cape Cod houses in this survey group are vernacular derivatives of the colonial house form, but feature few, if any, of the stylistic elements of their colonial antecedents. The other two houses in the survey group are modest, one-story dwellings with little to no stylistic detailing.

The houses in this survey group are all modest in size, and feature wood frame construction, and side gable, asphalt shingle roofs. They are one story in height, or one story with dormers, and are all three bays wide, or three bays with a screened side porch or one-bay side wing. Features shared by most of the Cape Cods include two dormers, screened side porches, and one-bay wide entrance porticos with square posts and front gables. All of the houses rest on solid, raised foundations made mostly of concrete block. Walls are clad in vinyl siding, aluminum siding, or asbestos shingles. The Cape Cod houses originally tended to have multiple-pane (6/6 and 6/1) windows, acknowledging their English Colonial origins. These were replaced at 306 E. Hawthorne Drive by 1/1 vinyl windows during the 1990s, and may have been replaced at 307 E. Hawthorne Drive by 2/2 horizontal aluminum windows in the 1960s.

Furthermore, half of the houses have fixed picture windows with sidelights. This feature was not correlated to a particular house type, and was included on two of the Cape Cod houses and one of the vernacular houses. Finally, all of the doors are single leaf and made of wood; they are also mostly paneled, with or without lights.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 545

Section 8 Page 1

Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne  
Drive Survey District  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

=====

Situated to the east of Washington Avenue, near U.S. 301 and the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, the survey district is located along the 400 block of Harford Street and the 300 block of East Hawthorne Road in the town of La Plata. These houses reflect patterns of development that characterized southern Maryland during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and also stylistic trends in domestic architecture during the period. Architecturally, the houses represent the Cape Cod house form that was prevalent in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. There are also some examples of one-story vernacular houses from the 1950s.

The Cape Cod house form, which a derivative of the Colonial Revival style, is loosely modeled after the early folk houses of eastern Massachusetts. Popular in the United States between 1880 and 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from the rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival domestic buildings were drawn primarily from the Georgian and Federal styles. While Colonial Revival buildings of the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century reflected their colonial influences more clearly, those that were constructed after World War II were more simplified, with details that suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. The Cape Cod was a standard house form found throughout suburban America. Most commonly built in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, these one-story houses often have Georgian or Adam inspired doorways. Typically, the Cape Cod is three bays wide and one story in height with a steeply pitched side gable roof, which was often finished as a half story.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, vernacular residences were typically built for Americans of modest means. Later vernacular houses were predominantly one- to one-and-a-half stories in height with front or side gable roofs. In general, a vernacular residence was a layman's response to the architectural styles and technologies that were popular and well accepted while the residence was being built. A builder could adapt a basic house form to fulfill his concept of style. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, vernacular residences moved away from exterior expressions of style to a personalized interior adaptation of the open plans and technologies offered in homes built by large developers. Simplified building forms were popularized in the 1950s and were adapted by small builders and homeowners to meet individual tastes.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 545

Section 8 Page 2

Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne  
Drive Survey District  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

=====  
Although the early development of La Plata was greatly impacted by the completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B & P) main line in 1872, the automobile and the improvement of the highway system predominantly influenced the mid-20th century development.

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, road improvements and the use of the automobile began to affect the growth of the region. La Plata acquired the first passenger car dealership in Charles County in 1903 and in 1910 the first State Roads Commission in the county began. As trucks began carrying more tobacco and produce from southern Maryland to northern markets, the demands for better roads grew. In 1922, the construction of the Robert Crain Highway, the predecessor to U. S. 301, began. Linking the rural areas of southern Maryland to the urban centers in the north, Crain Highway attracted new commercial and domestic development. Commercial development sprang up along La Plata's west side as a result of the highway, contributing greatly to the overall growth of the county seat in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1940, the Harry W. Nice Bridge was constructed, connecting Charles County to transportation routes from Florida to New York. Despite this growth, Charles County continued its relative isolation from large-scale residential and commercial development until after Crain Highway was dualized and designated as U. S. 301 in the 1960s. Large-scale modern development did not affect Charles County until the 1970s when the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guaranteed \$24 million in loans for the St. Charles Communities.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 545

Section 8 Page 3

Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne  
Drive Survey District  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

=====

National Register Evaluation:

The Harford Street and Hawthorne Drive Survey District is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the buildings and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the buildings provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, they are neither unusual nor distinguished; they do not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the properties are likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the survey district is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended ~~xxx~~

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 5/2/2000

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 8/14/00

*copy*

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 545

Harford Street/ E. Hawthorne  
Drive Survey District  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** District

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

5955 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CH-544

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE  
DRIVE SURVEY DISTRICT  
CH-545

1002 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
CH-546

WASHINGTON AVENUE  
SURVEY DISTRICT  
CH-547

14 WEST HAWTHORNE  
ROAD  
CH-548

6365 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CH-549

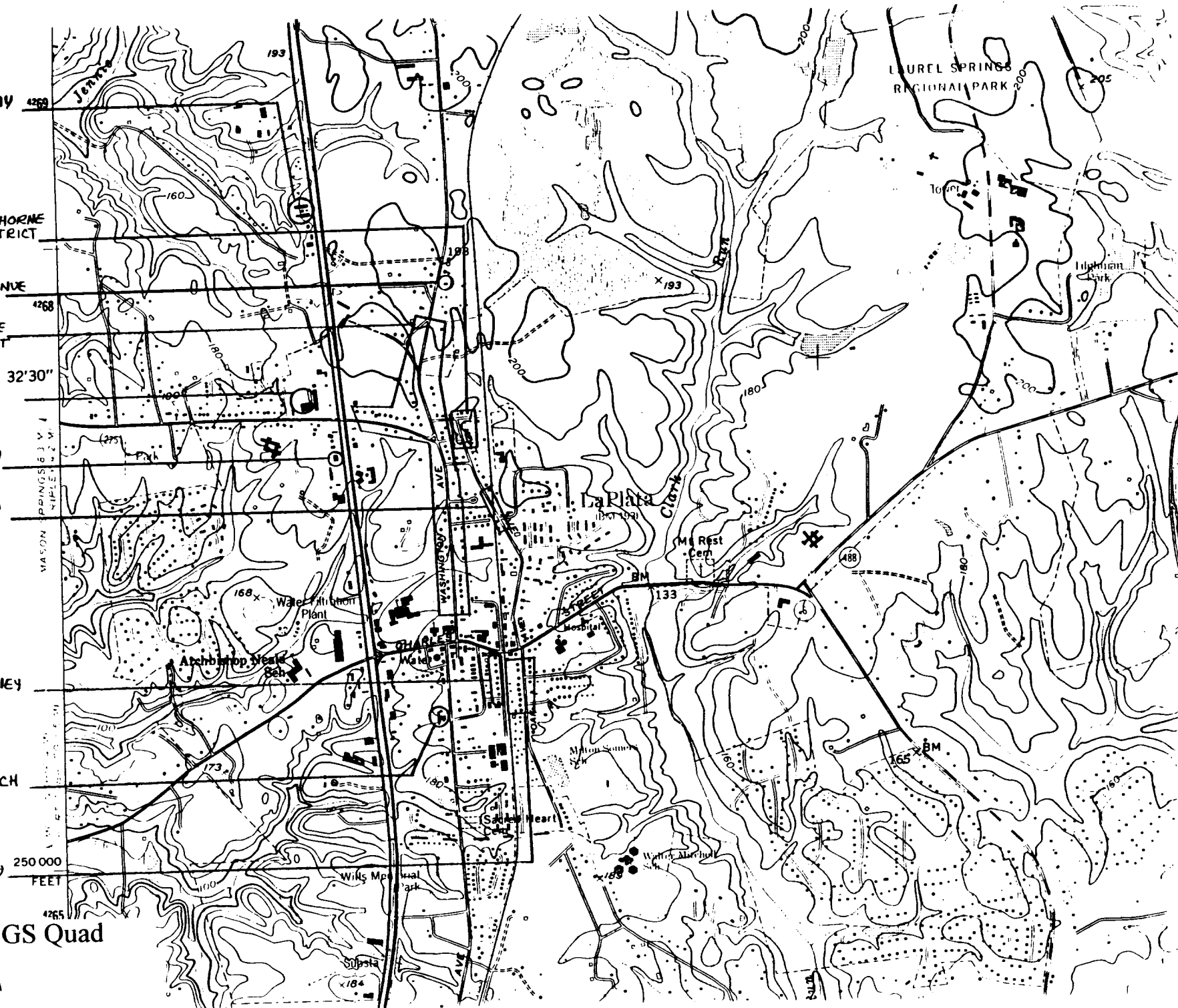
KENT AVENUE SURVEY  
DISTRICT  
CH-550

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY  
DISTRICT  
CH-551

SACRED HEART CHURCH  
CH-552

OAK STREET SURVEY  
DISTRICT  
CH-553

La Plata USGS Quad





CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP

307 EAST HAWTHORNE DRIVE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

north elevation

1 of 9



CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP  
306 EAST HAWTHORNE DRIVE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

South elevation

2 of 9





CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HANTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the southwest

3 of 9



CN:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP  
400 HARFORD STREET  
CHARLE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southwest corner

4 of 9



CH 1545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP

402 HARFORD STREET  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southwest corner

5 of 4



CH1545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP  
403 HARFORD STREET  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

northeast corner

6 of 9





CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP

401 HARFORD STREET  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

northeast corner

7 of 9



CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the east

8 of 9



CH:545

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE DRIVE SURVEY GROUP  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the northeast

9 of 9